

The Pygmy Owl

The Newsletter of the
Spokane Audubon Society



January 14th Program:

How to Get the Perfect Shot: A Bird Photographer's Secrets, featuring wildlife photographer Ron Smith



Join Spokane Audubon on January 14th as we welcome wildlife photographer Ron Smith for a presentation and conversation about how he approaches photographing birds. Ron got started in photography in 1954 when he bought the first of many cameras, a 35mm range finder. He has a degree in photography, but says, "For what it's worth, that and \$5.00 will get both you and me a cup of coffee at Starbucks... maybe. Photography is a visual art. The real trick is to learn and have fun along the way."

During the course of his career, Ron has worked in camera sales and printed large-size prints for a professional lab. He taught photography to children at SFCC summer school, and adult classes at night. Ron ran a wedding and portrait business for over 25 years, so when he retired, he thought he would try his hand at photographing something that didn't smile: wildlife and birds. He quickly discovered that birds aren't the easiest of subjects!

Photos by Ron Smith.

Spokane Audubon's January program will be held at the
Riverview Retirement Community, Village Community Building
2117 E. North Crescent Avenue

Please join us at 7 p.m. for refreshments and friendly conversation.

The program will begin at about 7:30 p.m., after announcements.

Spokane Audubon Society *2015 Field Trips*

The following list shows field trips planned by the Spokane Audubon Society. Trips may be added with short notice so check the website often.

Trips also may be canceled at any time due to bad weather, too few participants, or the lack of a leader. Contact the leader for more information and to reserve a spot. If you are unable to register before the scheduled deadline, yet want to attend, be sure that you check with the leader to ensure that the trip is still on. Leaders are club volunteers and are not compensated.

Field trips are free. However, if you carpool with somebody, you will be expected to compensate the driver for your share of gas and vehicle use. You are also responsible for any park entry fees, camping fees, or motel bills.

Starting times published below are when we leave, so arrive earlier than the posted hour. Participants need to provide their own binoculars, food and drink, adequate clothing, and transportation unless you find somebody with whom to carpool.

No dogs please.

Field Trip Levels

We provide a variety of trips that accommodate many birding skill levels. ***Birders of all levels are welcome on all trips.*** However, please bear in mind that some beginners may get frustrated or bored on trips designed for advanced

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Notes from the President

by Fran Haywood

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

I am going to try to be brief, as this issue contains the field trip schedule for this year. I hope everyone finds a trip to enjoy, which brings me to my message for the month and the year: GRATITUDE!

I am so grateful to Tom Light, for stepping up and taking over as field trip chair. He is doing a fantastic job. I am also thankful to Jon for the years that he did this job, and to all the leaders, past, present and future. We always are looking for new ideas for field trips. Any suggestions??

I am thankful to Joyce Alonso for doing the annual report of our club for National Audubon. This is a report of at least 12 pages, with lots of data of our activities during the year, our plan for next year, and a list of hours donated to our causes by Audubon members. Joyce, who has done several of these reports offered, and I know she spent many hours on it. I am also grateful to her for filling in for me at the November meeting so I could spend time with family in Kentucky.

I am grateful that Lindell volunteered to chair the study on Sagebrush Songbirds and Gary Blevins will teach the bird ID and calls for the participants.

Since I'm trying to be brief, I'll just say that I am truly grateful to all the wonderful members who do so much to keep this organization afloat.

I have to add at least one environmental message. We lost our fight to protect Mt Spokane, so the parks department will allow the beautiful old "old growth" forest to be cut for new ski lifts. Current profits won out over long term protection again.

Please stay apprised on coal & oil train issues.

Be thankful that National Audubon, after working years on their report on climate change and how it will affect birds, is now working on ways to protect bird species in light of this report. Stay tuned for more.

February Newsletter Deadline:

Thursday, January 22nd

Please e-mail material to Carmen Yount at
carmen@floreo.com

Sights & Sounds

Bird Sightings for the Inland Northwest, compiled by Jon Isacoff

This is a rough time of the year, with most of our breeding birds gone to sunnier climes, and arrival of winter visitors often sporadic. But, as always, there is some good stuff out there with Harris's Sparrows making an amazing three appearances in the region (since October) and a small irruption of Pine Grosbeaks in progress. Perhaps they'll be joined by Redpolls soon!

SNOW GOOSE: Wandermere (11/6-TL); Central Ferry (11/8-MC)

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Wandermere (11/6-TL)

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Coeur D'Alene (12/1-DW)

SURF SCOTER: Eloika Lake (11/5-TL)

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Sprague (11/8-MaB); Calispell Lake (11/9-MaB)

BLACK SCOTER: Sprague (11/8-MaB)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Eloika Lake (11/5-TL)

CLARK'S GREBE: Central Ferry (11/8-MC)

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: Moscow (11/23-EM)

THAYER'S GULL: Seven Bays (11/23-JI)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Coeur D'Alene (12/10-DW)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Rare in Nov. Reardan (11/1-JI)

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD: Hayden (DW-10/18 to 12/12)

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER: Rare in Nov.: Wawawai (11/16-RB)

SNOW BUNTING: Cusick (11/7-TL)

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Troy (11/15-CL); Cusick (11/17-MM)

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: Cusick (11/11 to 11/16-MM); Wolf Lodge Bay (11/16-CL); Sandpoint (11/18-RDC); Kootenai NWR (11/22-DB, MB)

SWAMP SPARROW: Liberty Lake (11/20-WY)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Hayden (12/6-DW)

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Asotin (12/6-MC, KC, RW); Spokane (12/7-JI)

PINE GROSBEAK: Davenport (11/1-JI); Riverside State Park (KT-11/2); Paradise Ridge (11/3-CS); Cougar Gulch (11/5-NK and RK); Davenport Cemetery (11/6-FH and NT); University of Idaho (11/7-CS); Riverbend (11/7-TL); Slavin Ranch (11/8-TO and 12/12-JI); Hayden 11/10-DW); Central Ferry (MaB-11/10); Little Spokane Fish Hatchery (11/18-TL)

GRAY-CROWNED ROSY FINCH: Ritzville (11/17-BL); Bayview (11/30 to 12/7-DW); Paradise Prairie (12/12-JI)

COMMON REDPOLL: Priest Lake (11/13-TL) Blue Creek Bay (11/19-CL); Clark Fork (12/5-TL)

Observers: DB-Don Baker; MB-Missy Baker; RB-R.J. Baltierra; MaB-Matt Bartels; KC-Keith Carlson; MC-Mike Clarke; RDC-Rich Del Carlo; GF-Greg Falco; MF-Marian Frobe; RF-Russell Frobe; JH-John Hanna; FH-Fran Haywood; BH-Bettie Hoff; JI-Jon Isacoff; NK-Nancy Kroese; RK-Rob Kroese; TL-Terry Little; AL-Angela Lotrario; CL-Carl Lundblad; BL-Becky Lyle; EM-Eliot Miler; MM-Matthew Moskwik; TO-Tim O'Brien; JP-Jonathan Pafford; CS-Charles Swift; NT-Norma Trefry; KT-Kim Thorburn; DW-Doug Ward; RW-Rick Welle; WY-Will Young

2015 Field Trips, cont. from page 1

birders, where much of the birding is done by ear and the pace is very fast. Some advanced birders might find the trips geared toward beginning birders too basic and slow-paced.

Some trips last five or six hours; some are 12 hours or longer.

Read the trip descriptions carefully to see if a trip is right for you.

January 24, 2015, Saturday LC Valley Banana Belt Trip Leader: Keith Carlson

This all-day trip is geared toward all levels of birders. The Lewiston/Clarkston (LC) Valley often has slightly more moderate temperatures in winter, which can make for some great winter birding. We will meet at Walmart in Pullman at 8:00 a.m. Come prepared for winter weather, bring snacks, water, and lunch. Contact Tom Light at tlight3@gmail.com or by phone at 509-638-2274 by January 18 to register for the trip.

Note: This trip will be dependent on weather and road conditions.

Target Species: A variety of waterfowl (hopeful target: Long-tailed Duck), winter gulls including hopeful Lesser Black-backed and Thayer's, Black-crowned Night-Herons, chaseable Snowy Owl and/or Gyrfalcon (if reported), wintering warblers, sparrows, and finches

February 7, 2015, Saturday Snowy Owl Trip

Leaders: Fran and Brad Haywood

This trip is geared toward all levels of birders. We will spend most of the day exploring the area around Reardan and Davenport, and perhaps drive down Mill Canyon or to the Coffee Pot Lake area depending on the latest bird reports. Winter birding can be slow and there are no guarantees. Weather can be a major factor. We will meet at

Spokane's Coeur d'Alene Park at 7:30 a.m. Contact Fran at 484-8666, or *birders13@gmail.com* by January 31 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcon, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Shrike, Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspur, Gray Partridge

**March 21, 2015, Saturday
Bluebird Trip**

Leader: Marian Frobe

This is a family friendly half-day trip and a great way to greet spring. We will drive a route on Paradise Prairie to see returning favorite birds. We will probably end up at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. The trip usually ends around 2 p.m. We will meet at Spokane's Coeur d'Alene Park at 7:00 a.m. Call leader Marian Frobe at 328-0621 by March 15, if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Migrant ducks and geese, raptors, woodpeckers, Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebird

**March 28, 2015, Saturday
Turnbull NWR Beginning Birder
Basics Trip**

Leader: Fran Haywood

This is a half-day driving and walking trip for all levels of birders, and is family oriented. It is early in the season for many species, but always exciting to see what has arrived. Meet at the refuge headquarters near Cheney at 7 a.m. Contact leader Fran Haywood, 484-8666, *birders13@gmail.com* by March 15 if you plan to attend.

Note: We will have a group pass to cover the refuge entrance fee.

Target Species: Breeding waterfowl; Tundra and Trumpeter Swans; Great Blue Heron; Red-tailed Hawk; woodpeckers; Pygmy, Red-breasted, and White-breasted Nuthatch; Western Bluebird; Song Sparrow; Red-winged

and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Red Crossbill

**March 28, 2015, Saturday
Kids & Family Trip
Leaders: Joyce Alonso and
Ann Brinly**

Joyce Alonso and Ann Brinly will lead a half-day trip specifically for Scouts of both genders and/or families interested in introducing their children to birds. The destination will be determined by weather conditions (advancement of Spring). The most likely possibility is Reardan's Audubon Lake and surrounding area. Meeting time will be 8:00am. Place to be determined. Call Joyce Alonso (448-2447) for more info and to register.

**April 18, 2015, Saturday
Sprague Lake Field Trip
Leader: Fran Haywood**

This is an half-day trip to the Sprague Lake area open to all birders. We will look for migrating and early resident species, especially ducks. We may drive through Miller Ranch, stop at Sprague Cemetery, and Cow Lake. We hope to find Swainson's Hawks, American White Pelicans and if we get lucky, Long-billed Curlew. We will meet at Spokane's Coeur d'Alene Park at 6:30 a.m. Contact Fran Haywood (484-8666, *birders13@gmail.com*)

Target Species: Migrant ducks and geese, American White Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Caspian Tern, Say's Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows, and Long-billed Curlew

**April 23-28, 2015, Thurs. - Tues.
Point Reyes, California Field Trip
Leader: Kim Thorburn
Limit: 6 Birders**

This six-day trip is for intermediate and advanced birders. Kim Thorburn will provide lodging for up to six

participants and lead field trips on Bolinas Lagoon and beach, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Point Reyes National Seashore, Mt. Tamalpais State Park, and the Marin Headlands. This region is a year-round birding hot spot, site of the filming of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds," and home of elite birder and artist Keith Hansen. There is a variety of pelagic and other waterfowl, migrating shorebirds and warblers, and lots of land natives that we don't often see here. Participants will be responsible for their own air travel to Oakland and we'll split the cost of land transportation and food. We'll need to coordinate arrival and departure in Oakland. Contact Kim Thorburn by April 1 if you're interested in learning more. 465-3025, *kthorburn@msn.com*.

Target Species (examples): Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wren-tit, Allen's Hummingbird, Whimbrel, Snowy Plover, Western Gull, Common Murre, Red-throated Loon, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

**April 26, 2015, Sunday
West Plains Early Migrant Trip
Leader: Alan McCoy
Limit: 15 Birders**

This all-day trip is for all levels of birders. We will stop at Reardan's Audubon Lake where we will look for waterfowl and shorebirds. We will check out the Davenport Cemetery, which can be great for migrants. Then we will go north to the Little Falls Dam, follow the Spokane River upstream and finish up at the Indian Canyon Springs area. We will meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Rosauer's parking lot in Browne's Addition (near 2nd Avenue and Sunset Highway) and plan to return about 6:00 p.m. Contact leader Alan McCoy at 448-3123, 448-8861 or *ahm2352@gmail.com* by April 20 to reserve your place.

West Plains Early Migrant Trip Target Species: Migrant ducks, raptors, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Bewick's Wren, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Red-necked Grebe, Calliope Hummingbird, Orange-crowned, Nashville and Yellow warblers, Say's Phoebe, Western and Mountain Bluebirds

May 4, 6, 8;

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings
Bird Identification Workshops
Leaders: Gary Blevins and
Kim Thorburn**

OK. Novices and beginners, this is your chance. Two instructors will teach a series of three classes on beginning birding and bird identification by sight and sound. Workshops will be held at a site to be determined, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Slides and computer programs will be used to introduce you to many of the bird species commonly observed in the Spokane area. A \$20 donation to Spokane Audubon is requested. A field trip for workshop participants to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge will be held on International Migratory Bird Day, May 10. For more information or to reserve your place for the workshop, contact Gary Blevins at (533-3661 or GaryB@spokanefalls.edu) by May 1.

May 9, 2015, Saturday

**Bird Identification Workshop Field
Trip to Turnbull NWR
Leaders: Gary Blevins and
Kim Thorburn**

Come celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by birding. Although the trip is specifically designed for the Bird Identification Workshop participants, other birders are welcome. We will meet at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, near Cheney, in the parking lot across from Pine Lake at 7:00 a.m. and bird the refuge until 2:00 p.m. Contact leader Gary Blevins at (533-3661 or GaryB@spokanefalls.edu) by May 3 to register for the trip.

Target Species: Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, American Bittern, various waterfowl, Great Horned Owl, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cassin's Finches

**May 16, 2015, Sunday
Slavin Ranch Wetland Trip
Leader: Alan McCoy**

This is an annual trip to Slavin Ranch for Spokane Audubon. It is a half-day walking trip along a primitive trail through open Ponderosa Pine scab rock country with many views of seasonal wetlands. All levels of birders are welcome. The Slavin Ranch is a Conservation Futures acquisition located about 10 miles south of downtown Spokane and a mile west of Hwy 195. We will start at the Slavin Ranch parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and end about 1:00 p.m. Please call leader Alan McCoy at 448-3123 or 448-8861, ahm2352@gmail.com by May 4 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Breeding ducks and geese, Sora, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, breeding Black Tern, woodpeckers, six swallow species, Western Wood Pewee, Eastern and Western Kingbird, Marsh Wren, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat

**May 24, 2015, Sunday
Mosquito Springs Trip
Leader: Kim Thorburn**

This trip is for birders of all levels. It is a half-day walking trip over rough terrain. Experience this little-known BLM shrub-steppe riparian area brimming with arriving breeding birds. We will also check for sagebrush and grassland species. Contact Kim Thorburn, 465-3025 or kthorburn@msn.com by May 18 if you're interested.

Target species: Willow Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Warbling Vireo, Bullock's Oriole,

Grasshopper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher

**May 30, 2015, Saturday
Peone Praries Wetlands Trip
Leader: Jim Hudlow**

This half-day trip will focus on visiting several hot spots in the Peone Praries wetlands area. Meet 7:00 a.m. **SHARP** at Foothills Community Church, 11100 N. Peck Road. Contact Jim Hudlow (flyz4free@yahoo.com or 509-926-2186) by May 27th, if you plan to attend.

Target species: Bullocks Oriole, Lazuli Bunting, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Kingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Catbird, Red Tail Hawk, Northern Harrier, shore birds

**May 31, 2015, Sunday
Little Spokane Natural Area Trip
Leader: Lindell Haggin**

All levels of birders are welcome to join us for a half-day walking trip along the Little Spokane River Natural Area. This is the peak of breeding season. Over 80 species have been recorded in this rich riparian, forest, and rock habitat. Meet at the Spokane River Boat Launch parking lot less than one mile north of Nine-Mile Dam on Rt. 291 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Lindell Haggin, 466-4118 or lindell4118@comcast.net by May 25 if you plan to attend.

Note: A WA Discover Pass is required for parking on this trip. Purchase online or at REI.

Target Species: Common and Hooded Merganser; Osprey; Woodpeckers; Pacific-slope and Willow Flycatchers; Warbling, Cassin's and Red-eyed Vireos; White-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick's and House Wrens; Gray Catbird; Black-headed Grosbeak; Bullock's Oriole

June 6, 2015, Saturday

Liberty Lake Trip

**Leader: Joyce Alonso and
Brian Miller**

This is a mostly easy walking half-day trip. Liberty Lake hosts some of the best habitat diversity in Spokane County, with breeding grebes on the lake, extensive wetlands and prairie, old second-growth Ponderosa Pine, and some of the best wetbelt mixed conifer forest in the area. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by May 31 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Red-necked Grebe; Wilson's Snipe; Virginia and Sora Rails; woodpeckers; Hammond's, Dusky, and Willow Flycatcher; Cassin's, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos; Marsh Wren; Yellow, MacGillivray's, Orange-crowned, Townsend's, and Nashville Warblers; American Redstart; Common Yellowthroat

June 7, 2015, Sunday

**Douglas Creek/Waterville
Plateau Trip**

Leader: Kim Thorburn

All levels of birders are welcome to join this all-day trip to Waterville Plateau birding hotspots. We will bird Douglas Creek (rough road access), the Waterville STP, and Badger Mtn. Contact Kim Thorburn at 465-3025 or kthorburn@msn.com by June 1.

Target species: Variety of migrating warblers, Lazuli Buntings, Rock and Canyon Wrens, and much more (Douglas Creek); all varieties of swallows along with shorebirds and waterfowl (Waterville STP); Warbling Vireos, several varieties of warblers and more (Badger Mtn.)

June 13, 2015, Saturday

Iller Creek Trip

Leader: Gary Lee

This trip is for birders of all levels as well as local citizens who want to learn

more about protecting our precious Dishman Hills ecosystem. On this trip, we will slowly walk some of the trails and see what is there. The Iller Creek Natural Area is famed for its abundance of breeding flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. Occasionally a moose makes a cameo appearance! Meet at the Iller Creek entrance in the cul-de-sac at the end of Holman Road. Contact Gary Lee at bird_fan@aol.com or 389-5474 to sign up and for meeting time.

Target Species: Ruffed Grouse; Accipiters; woodpeckers; Hammond's, Dusky, Willow, and Pacific-Slope Flycatchers; Warbling and Cassin's Vireos; Swainson's Thrush; Gray Catbird; Bewick's Wren; Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, and MacGillivray's Warblers; Spotted Towhee; Cassin's Finch; Red Crossbill

June 14, 2015, Sunday

Palisades/Indian Canyon Trip

Leader: Lindell Haggin

All levels of birders are invited to explore the Indian Canyon area immediately west of town. We will be walking one or two miles. We will meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Rosauer's at 1808 W. 3rd Ave. The field trip will end at approximately 11:00 a.m. Contact Lindell Haggin (446-4118 or lindell4118@comcast.net) by June 7 if you plan to attend.

Target Species: Raptors, woodpeckers, White-throated Swifts, Western Wood-pewee, Dusky and Hammond's Flycatchers, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, breeding sparrows and finches, Black-headed Grosbeak

June 19-June 21, 2015

Friday-Sunday

**Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife
Refuge Camping Trip**

Leaders: Fran and Brad Haywood

Enjoy a great time camping and birding at Little Pend Oreille NWR in Stevens County, WA. To reserve a place

or for more information, contact Fran Haywood (290-1814 or birders13@gmail.com) or Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by June 13. Camping fees may apply.

Target Species: Woodpeckers, Black-backed, White-headed plus common species. warblers, vireos, flycatchers, jays, thrushes, finches, chickadees, nuthatches and ducks and grebes.

June 27, 2015, Saturday

Mount Spokane Subalpine Birds Trip

Leader: Jim Hudlow

This is a half-day hiking trip for all levels of birders. The grade is very gentle but we will walk four to six miles. Be prepared, with plenty of snacks and water. You may retreat at any point. Mt. Spokane is the primary (and only publicly accessible) site for subalpine breeding birds in Spokane County, making this a popular and exciting annual event. Meet 7:00 a.m. **SHARP** at Foothills Community Church, 11100 N. Peck Road. Contact Jim Hudlow (flyz4free@yahoo.com or 509-926-2186) by June 21 if you plan to attend.

Note: Discover Passes required for all vehicles in Mt. Spokane State Park. Purchase online or at REI.

Target Species: Dusky and Ruffed Grouse; Accipiters; Northern Pygmy Owl; woodpeckers; Hammond's Flycatcher; Warbling and Cassin's Vireos; Gray and Stellar's Jays; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Swainson's, Hermit, and Varied Thrushes; Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers; Fox Sparrow; Cassin's Finch; Red Crossbill

August 29th, Saturday

Trail of Coeur D'Alene's Bike Birding

**Leader: Alan McCoy and
Sandy Sollie**

We are changing the trip this year. Instead of starting in Harrison, we will start at the Plummer Creek Boardwalk at 7:00 a.m. This is a short boardwalk

through the marsh where Plummer Creek comes into the lake at Heyburn State Park near the Chatcolet Campground. (The two trip leaders with spouses will be camping that weekend and others are welcome to camp there too, but your campground reservations should be made early in the year, if you plan to spend the night.) From the boardwalk we will bike north on the CDA trail. We might make it to Harrison and beyond, or might not depending on the birding. It is an easy ride on a paved, flat trail for all level of birders. Bring your bicycle/helmet, lunch, water, snacks, and optics. If we make it to Harrison, we can sit at the marina and have an ice cream cone as a reward! The trip will end up back at the boardwalk. Contact Alan at 509-

448-3123 or ahm2352@gmail.com by August 22 to reserve your space and to get directions and other information.

Target species: migrating waterfowl, warblers, vireos, pelicans, Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

**September 12, 2015 Saturday
Sprague Lake Migrant Trip
Leader: Norma Trefry**

This is a half day trip to the Sprague Lake area to look for migrating birds, and birds that often stray here in September. Meet at Coeur d'Alene Park at 7am. Please call Norma Trefry by Sept 9 if you plan to attend. Phone: 926-2533. Email: firstrefry@gmail.com.

Target Birds: Waterfowl, loons and grebes, White Pelican, Peregrine Fal-

con, Red-necked Phalarope, Sabine's Gull (rare), terns, American Pipit, migrant sparrows and warblers.

**October 24, 2015, Saturday
Grant County Late Fall Migrant Trip
Leader: Gary Blevins**

This is a beginning, intermediate and advanced birder-oriented trip to look for specialty birds, such as Arctic Gulls, Lapland Longspurs, and other hard to find and see northern visitors. There may be some down time with little action in between bird sightings but potential for rarities is high. It is a full-day trip from sunrise to sunset. Contact Gary Blevins (533-3661 or GaryB@spokanefalls.edu) by October 18 if you plan to attend.

**Spokane Audubon Society
Membership Form**

Local Membership Dues:

Individual: \$20/year _____

Couple & Family: \$25/year _____

Student: \$10/year _____

Lifetime: \$300 _____

National Membership Dues: \$35/year _____

Individual + National Dues: \$55/year _____

Couple + National Dues: \$60/year _____

Your local membership provides you with *The Pygmy Owl* and supports your local chapter's many conservation and education activities. You will also be eligible for website privileges.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Please make check payable to:
Spokane Audubon Society
Send this form and your check to:

Audubon Membership
Attn: Dave Plemons
1224 W. Riverside #1101
Spokane, WA 99201

Current members may renew memberships from our web site::

<http://spokaneaudubon.org>

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The Pygmy Owl
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*January 14th Program:
 How to Get the Perfect Shot:
 A Bird Photographer's Secrets
 with Ron Smith
 7:30 p.m.*

To:

The Spokane Audubon Society provides resources and services to educate people about birds, wildlife, and the importance of habitats, and to advocate and support public policies and actions that conserve and restore wildlife habitats.

Visit our website: <http://spokaneaudubon.org>

Target Birds: Loons and grebes; scoters and rare wintering waterfowl; wintering raptors; Glaucous, Thayers, and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Snowy Owl; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Lapland Longspur; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch

**November 21, 2015, Saturday
 Douglas Plateau Northern
 Visitors Trip
 Leader: Kim Thorburn**

The Waterville Plateau is a challenging but high-quality destination for rarities during the late fall and winter months. We will work the rolling steppe of the Plateau in search of unusual raptors, owls, and passerines and also bird along the Columbia River in hopes of finding rare Arctic Gulls and saltwater waterfowl, such as scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Pacific Loon. We will spend the night of November 20 in Brewster for an earlier start with the birds during this short daylight season. Contact Kim Thorburn (465-3025 or *kthor-*

burn@msn.com) by November 15 if you plan to attend.

Note: This trip will be dependent on weather and road conditions.

Target Birds: Loons and grebes; scoters and rare wintering waterfowl; wintering raptors; Glaucous, Thayer's, and Glaucous-winged Gulls; Snowy Owl; Northern Shrike; Snow Bunting; Lapland Longspur; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. We will hunt for elusive rarities, including Gyrfalcon and Northern Hawk Owl

**December 12, 2015, Saturday
 Winter Lake and Wetbelt Trip
 Leader: Joyce Alonso**

This trip takes us around Beauty Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene where the Bald Eagles feeding on spawned out Kokanee are always a sight to behold. Weather permitting; those interested may drive down to Thompson Lake/Harrison region where a variety of birds winter in a slightly warmer zone.

Probable particulars: 8:00 a.m. start at Liberty Lake Albertson's parking lot. Contact Joyce Alonso (448-2447) by December 6 if you plan to attend.

Note: This trip will be dependent on weather and road conditions.

Target Species: Bald Eagles, several duck and grebe species. Possibles, seen on previous trips, are American Dipper, Pacific Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Tundra Swans, Northern Pygmy Owl

**December 27, 2015, Sunday
 Christmas Bird Count
 Leader: Alan McCoy**

All SAS members as well as new birders are always welcome to join the Christmas count, which encompasses the Spokane Count Circle Center: 47° 43' N by 117° 25' W (approximately Division St. and Francis Avenue). Please contact Alan McCoy (509-448-3123 or *ahm2352@gmail.com*) for information about the Spokane CBC.